

International Wheelchair Rugby Federation - Nationality Policy

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Any athlete participating in an IWRF-sanctioned event as a member of a national team must be a national of the country entering the team.
2. This policy applies to all athletes participating in IWRF sanctioned competitions. This policy does not apply to non-athlete participants including coaches, managers, and other team staff.
3. The term ‘country’ refers to any country, state, territory, or part of a territory, which is accepted by IWRF as the area of jurisdiction of a member of IWRF.

DETERMINATION OF NATIONALITY

4. An athlete’s nationality is determined by the citizenship of the athlete. Proof of citizenship shall generally be that the athlete holds an official passport issued by the country. Evidence of legal residence or domicile will not be accepted as evidence of nationality unless otherwise permitted by any of the terms of this policy.
5. An athlete who is a national of two or more countries at the same time may choose to represent either one of them. However, after having represented one of the countries in an IWRF sanctioned event, the athlete may not represent another country without meeting the conditions for a change of nationality.

CHANGE OF NATIONALITY

6. An athlete who has represented one country in an IWRF sanctioned event who changes nationality, who acquires a new nationality, or who holds two or more nationalities, may change the country he or she represents to one of his or her other nationalities. The athlete may represent a new country in IWRF-sanctioned competition after three years have passed since the athlete last represented the former country. This waiting period may be reduced to one year with the agreement of the IWRF member for the athlete’s former country.

PARTICIPATION IN NON-IWRF EVENTS

7. This policy applies only to athletes participating in the sport of Wheelchair Rugby in IWRF sanctioned events. Recognition of nationality by IWRF does not obligate another sport federation to recognize the same nationality, and recognition of nationality by another sport federation does not obligate IWRF to recognize the same nationality. In particular, nationality requirements for Paralympic Games are set by IPC and athletes participating in Wheelchair Rugby at Paralympic Games are required to follow IPC rules for determining nationality and for change of nationality.

SPECIAL STATUS

8. IWRF recognizes National Paralympic Committees (NPCs) in good standing with the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) in determining jurisdiction of member countries. As IPC recognizes certain NPCs for territories that are not sovereign states, the concept of 'nationality' may not always follow the general principle set out above. The IWRF Board of Directors will have absolute discretion to determine the nationality eligibility requirements of athletes representing such territories.
9. IWRF will have regard to the plight of stateless persons (as that phrase is understood in international law and more specifically defined in the UN Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees). IWRF will determine the eligibility requirements of any athlete deemed to be a stateless person.
10. Regardless of the provisions of this policy, any athlete who as of the date of implementation of this policy by the IWRF Board of Directors was recognized as a national of a country shall continue to be permitted to represent that country in international competition until such time as he or she retires from the sport or changes nationality in accordance with the provisions of this policy.

PROCEDURES

11. Any application for a change of nationality, or for any consideration under specific or exceptional circumstances, shall be submitted to IWRF by the country who wishes to enter the athlete into competition. The application shall be accompanied by all relevant evidence and any other documentation as required by IWRF. This may include but is not limited to the evidence of support from the country of origin.
12. Where an athlete competitor objects to the nationality attributed to him or her under the above rules and where genuine exceptional circumstances exist, or in circumstances not fully covered by the above rules, an athlete may apply to IWRF for a ruling on his or her nationality. On such an application IWRF may take all decisions of a general or individual nature with regard to issues resulting from nationality, citizenship, domicile or residence of any competitor, including the duration of any waiting period or any other requirements or conditions.
13. The IWRF Board normally delegates authority to the Secretary General to decide and resolve all matters relating to the determination of the country that a competitor may represent in IWRF competitions.